

The orders:

BE LEAN

AND READY. As the District added nearly 100 military workers and absorbed those shifted from Fort Worth, the civil works load also increased. That came with a transfer of civil design responsibility from the Little Rock District. But at the same time, the District was ordered to carry out a reduction in force in its civil employees. These profound realignments of staff and work were harbingers of things to come, reflecting the Reagan administration's philosophy that emphasized military preparedness and lean government.

By the end of fiscal 1982, Tulsa had 137 authorized military jobs; by the end of 1983, it had reached 259 (of a total District work force of 1,230). Yet even that growth did not reflect the true impact of the military changes, because at least 75 percent of the engineering and design work was done through outside architectural/engineering contracts. The installations had not been kept in good repair and needed modernized equipment. By June 1983, the District was involved with a \$190 million military construction program.

Reassignments continued in 1985, when Arkansas military projects were transferred from Tulsa to the Little Rock District, in response to congressional pressure to avert closing the Little Rock District. In turn, Tulsa received the work of the Fort Worth District's Northwestern Area Office, relieving Fort Worth of some of its heavy military load. Tulsa assumed responsibility for two Air Force bases and the Department of Energy Pantex Plant in the Texas Panhandle.

As engineer to this growing slice of the nation's army, the Tulsa District served a clientele considerably different from the World War II armed forces. The U.S. had switched to an all-volunteer Army in 1972, so the armed forces of the 1980s tried to provide more comfortable and inviting living quarters.

A step

INTO THE

NUCLEAR AGE came in 1987 not far from Amarillo, Texas. By 1987 the Tulsa District's military work was varied and complex, as challenging as any assignment ever given the District. Among the most sophisticated tasks were some highly complex nuclear weapons assembly facilities at the Pantex Plant near Amarillo. Pantex originally fabricated chemical explosives; then it was converted into the nation's only operating final assembly point for nuclear weapons. In 1987 the Tulsa District worked with the Fort Worth District and the U.S. Department of Energy to build a \$43 million addition to the plant.

Among other special projects were the repair of Tinker Air Force Base Building 3001, cleanup of hazardous wastes at Pine Bluff Arsenal, and using the McClellan-Kerr Waterway for military transport.



Unexploded shells are often found at Pat Mayse Lake, constructed on the lands once occupied by Camp Maxey.



Among the most challenging and important military work of the Tulsa District: building maintenance management for the Pantex Plant near Amarillo, the only U.S. final assembly point for nuclear weapons.